

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

sub. a1  
1. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a receiver to receive a wireless signal from a control panel, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding a sensor event; and

5 a phone port to connect to a telephone line, wherein the phone port is further to receive configuration data from the monitoring station.

2. The phone-interface device of claim 1, further comprising:

memory to contain data received from the control panel.

10 3. The phone-interface device of claim 2, further comprising:

a controller to buffer the data in the memory.

15 4. The phone-interface device of claim 3, wherein the controller is to buffer the data in the memory when a first data-rate between the phone-interface device and the control panel is too slow to accommodate a second data-rate between the phone-interface device and the monitoring station.

20 5. The phone-interface device of claim 3, when the controller is to buffer the data in the memory in anticipation of the monitoring station requesting the data.

6. The phone-interface device of claim 1, further comprising:

memory to contain data received from the monitoring station.

25 7. The phone-interface device of claim 6, further comprising:

a controller to buffer the data in the memory when a data rate between the phone-interface device and the control panel is too slow to accommodate a data-rate between the phone-interface device and the monitoring station.

5 *sub. a2* 8. A phone-interface device, comprising:  
a phone port to receive configuration data; and  
a transmitter to send the configuration data via a wireless signal to a control panel.

9. The phone-interface device of claim 8, further comprising:  
memory to store the configuration information for later communication to the control panel.

10

10. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the transmitter is to send the configuration data to the control panel while the phone port is on-hook.

15

11. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the transmitter sends the configuration data to the control panel while the phone port is off-hook.

12. The phone-interface device of claim 8, wherein the phone port is to call a designated device to report success or failure of transmission of the configuration data.

20

*sub. a3* 13. A phone-interface device, comprising:  
a phone port to receive tones from a telephone; and  
a transmitter to relay the tones to a control panel via a wireless signal.

25

14. The phone-interface device of claim 13, wherein the tones are DTMF tones.

15. The phone-interface device of claim 13, wherein the telephone and the phone port are on a same premises.

16. The phone-interface device of claim 14, wherein the telephone is off-premises from the phone-interface device.

17. A phone-interface device, comprising:

- 5           a phone port to receive tones from a telephone;  
          a controller to translate the tones into a command; and  
          a transmitter to send the command to a control panel via a wireless signal.

*sub. a4*  
10       18. The phone-interface device of claim 17, further comprising:

- a sensor to sense a trouble condition at the phone-interface device;  
          a transmitter to transmit wireless signals containing data regarding the trouble condition to a control panel.

15       19. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further comprises phone line removal.

20       20. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further comprises  
          cover removal.

25       21. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further comprises removal from mounting.

          22. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further comprises low battery.

          23. The phone-interface device of claim 18, wherein the trouble condition further comprises power supply trouble.

24. A phone-interface device, comprising:

a controller to determine whether a signal from a control panel has been received, and when a signal has not been received within a period of time, the controller is to transmit an error message to a monitoring station.

25. A control panel, comprising

a controller to determine whether a signal from a phone-interface device has been received, and when a signal has not been received within a period of time, the controller is to transmit an error message to a user.

26. The control panel of claim 25, wherein the error message is transmitted via a display associated with the control panel.

15

*add a5*

*add B2*